

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-48, 50, 52-54, 56-86, 88-90, 92, and 94-108 have been canceled; and claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

In Section 1 of the Office Action, the Abstract is objected to for failing to meet the requirements of MPEP §608.01(b). The Abstract has been replaced to obviate the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter of Claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93

It appreciatively noted that claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 have been amended accordingly. Therefore, claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

§ 112 Rejection of Claim 57

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claim 57 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claim 57 has been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1-46, 52-54, 56-58, 61-66, 69-86, 94-96, 100-102, and 105-108

In Section 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-46, 52-54, 56-58, 61-66, 69-86, 94-96, 100-102, and 105-108 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maillard *et al.* (EP 0 963 115; hereinafter referred to as “Maillard”) in view of Sezan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,395; hereinafter referred to as “Sezan”). Claims 1-46, 52-54, 56-58, 61-66, 69-86, 94-96, 100-102, and 105-108 have been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 47, 48, 59, 60, 67, 68, 89, 90, 97, 98, 103, and 104

In Section 7 of the Office Action, claims 47, 48, 59, 60, 67, 68, 89, 90, 97, 98, 103, and 104 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maillard and Sezan and further in view of Ellis *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,774,926; hereinafter referred to as “Ellis”). Claims 47, 48, 59, 60, 67, 68, 89, 90, 97, 98, 103, and 104 have been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 50 and 92

In Section 8 of the Office Action, claims 50 and 92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maillard, Sezan, and Ellis and further in view of Freimann (U.S. Patent No. 6,604,243). Claims 50 and 92 have been canceled.

§ 103 Rejection of Claim 99

In Section 9 of the Office Action, claim 99 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Maillard and Sezan, and further in view of Ellis and MacDonald *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,161; hereinafter referred to as “MacDonald”). Claim 99 has been canceled.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 49, 51, 55, 87, 91, and 93 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:


Samuel S. Lee, Reg. No 42,791 for

William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800